

**PASSIVATED MAGNETO-RESISTIVE BIT STRUCTURE
AND PASSIVATION METHOD THEREFOR**

Abstract of the Disclosure

A passivated magneto-resistive bit structure is disclosed in which surfaces subjects to oxidation or corrosion are protected. In one embodiment, a bit structure is encapsulated by means of an etch stop barrier material. In another embodiment an etch stop barrier material protects the top of a bit structure and dielectric spacers protect the side walls.

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